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POLAND: POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REVIEW  
for December 15 - 31, 1950

Compiled exclusively from information published  
in the Polish Communist press.

A. POLITICAL LIFE

EAST-GERMAN PRESIDENT PIECK IN WARSAW. On December 18 President Wilhelm Pieck of East Germany arrived in Warsaw accompanied by Vice-Premier Heinrich Rau, Vice-Premier Hans Kock, Foreign Minister Georg Detinger, Assistant Foreign Minister Anton Ackerman, chairman of the National Front Dr Erich Correns, chairman of the Youth League Erich Honnecker, Chief of the President's Chancery Otto Winter, the President's secretary Walter Bartel, president of the Polish-German Association for Friendship Karl Wloch, and Chief of Protocol Ferdinand Thun. The Germans spent two days in Warsaw, during which they were met by every prominent politician in accordance with a comprehensive time-table. It was emphasised in all addresses that the state visit had come about during a time when the western Powers were rearming West Germany against Poland. President Pieck emphasised in his address that Poland was now second only to the Soviet Union in Germany's foreign trade, and that East Germany, on the other hand, had become second only to the Soviet Union in Poland's foreign trade. He emphasised that the Polish-German frontier was a peace-frontier and therefore inviolable. He recalled that more and more German experts were coming to Poland "in order to gain experiences for work in their own country" and said that their numbers will increase.

[Redacted] comment. Wilhelm Pieck spent recently a few

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weeks in Moscow "in order to take a medical check-up by Russian doctors because of his declining health". The Germans had in Warsaw too little time and their program was too overloaded to permit any serious discussions (provided no one of them stayed back in Warsaw, concerning which there is no information). It seems, therefore, that the visit was principally a courtesy call intended to accustom the Poles and the Germans to the somewhat unusual atmosphere of friendship and to make an impression on the West in the face of the discussions concerning the rearmament of West Germany.

Pieck's statement on the foreign trade with Poland ~~xxx~~ is worthy of interest. In this writer's opinion it amounts to the following: the Soviet Union takes the first place in East Germany's foreign trade because large quantities of goods go to the Soviet Union, and Poland takes the second place in West Germany's foreign trade because numerous Polish commodities, coal in the first place, go to East Germany (gratuitously). But it is still more interesting that East Germany has taken the second place in Poland's foreign trade in succession to Czechoslovakia. These changes happened after the adherence of East Germany to the COMECON, and it is in fact incorrect to speak of "foreign trade" between its members. The COMECON is now directing all foreign trade of its area, in which questions of payment play no importance whatever.

Finally, Pieck's statement confirmed the reports of an earlier date according to which a number of former Polish Germans have been permitted to return to Poland as experts. Statements put earlier into the circulation to the effect that Soviet Russia intends to solve the Polish-German problem by letting the Germans to return to their former parts now formally under the sovereignty of Poland, seem therefore now more trustworthy than before.

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COMMUNIST DOCKERS' INTERNATIONAL. According to statements made during the meeting at Warsaw, the Standing Committee of the International Federation of Communist Dockers, which counted in July 1949 fifteen unions as its members, has now increased this number to 24. The meeting was attended by delegates from Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Netherlands, East Germany, Poland, Roumania, USA, Italy, Soviet Russia and Australia. The following new members were admitted during the convention: Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, Cuba and Colombia. The French delegate Andre Fressina, who presided the meetings and is the secretary-general of the International Federation, and the Italian delegate Marino di Stefano, who is a vice-president of the Federation, were the chief speakers at the meetings. A few delegates mentioned in the press were Wavilkin, chairman of the maritime transport workers union, for the Soviet Union; Vuorinen for Finland; Novakov for Bulgaria; Healy for Australia; Koman Descalu for Roumania; Herbert Littke for East Germany; Peter Anderson for Denmark; George Pontikos for Greece; and Tshiu-King for China.

comment. The meetings were devoted almost exclusively to questions connected with the "Peace Drive", i.e. to sabotage to be directed against the arms transports for Western Europe. It is significant that the delegates of France and Italy - two nations holding the principal strategic positions - played the leading parts. 50X1-HUM

HUNGARIAN MILITARY DELEGATION AT WARSAW. General Pal Ila and Col. Kovacs arrived in Warsaw to represent the Hungarian army in connection with the centenary celebrations of General Bem, the Polish-Hungarian national hero.

POLAND "RECALLS" ITS CONSULAR OFFICERS FROM WEST GERMANY. On December 13 the Assistant Foreign Minister Skrzyszewski presented to the British Ambassador a note protesting against "the violation of the diplomatic immunity of Polish consular

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officers in West Germany" and announcing the decision of Poland to recall these officers, as they have been prevented to carry out their official duties.

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comment. This step was taken after the announcement of the Allied Control Commission that it intended to regard Polish consular officers in the future as private citizens because of their refusal to be accredited to the Allied Control Commission. This was in November, whereafter the British military authorities evicted the Poles from their residence and refused to accord to them the privilege of immunity.

GOVERNMENT AGENCY FOR PUBLIC COMPLAINTS. The Communist Party (PZPR) has directed all its agencies to check very carefully that all complaints coming from the public receive due attention. Complaints presented by the public, says the decision, "contain more often than not feelings of concern about the general welfare, socialized property, better working methods in the administration, party organization and business undertakings". Party organs have omitted to use this "means of self-criticism" and have failed to secure that such complaints receive proper attention by government and business agencies. There are cases in which the party organs have tried to suppress the complaints and to relieve the accused of their proper responsibility. Party executives should therefore devote in the future at least one meeting in each quarter year to a report showing which complaints have come in and what was their result. Every attempt to suppress criticism is liable to be prosecuted and punished.

Some time afterwards the State Council and Government adopted a similar decision. Village, city, district and provincial People's Councils are to announce publicly on what days their presidents, vice-presidents and section chiefs are available for the population. Central administrative agencies (departments) are to be open for this purpose each Monday. On those days "the population is entitled to

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file oral or written complaints against every state agency." Every attempt to delay the handling of such complaints is to be punishable. Complaints made public in the press should be met by the competent authorities publicly within a month's time. Failing this, the editor is to forward the complaint to the next higher authority. The State Council is to set up a special bureau for the handling of the most important complaints, and the public prosecutor is to collaborate in their handling. 50X1-HUM

comment. This implies simply the establishment of a universal squealing system, under which no one is to feel secure, this general feeling of insecurity being perhaps the principal groundstone of the Communist system.

GENERAL MEETING OF KIELCE PROVINCIAL CP SECTION. The general meeting of the Kielce Provincial Committee of the Communist Party (in Middle Poland) was devoted to the collectivization of agriculture. According to the press, "it is a long way to the feeling that Village Committees have taken the political leadership of rural Poland". It was decided "to step up the party work in the villages". According to the present system, villages considered ripe for collectivization were given special attention. In such villages every attempt was made to collectivize farming as soon as possible. The meeting rejected such practices, which it considered unsuitable. Instead, it was decided to pay more attention to "combating the koulaks" in all villages at the same time, considering that collectivization will follow by itself, as soon as the fight against the koulaks is successfully over. Particular attention is to be paid to every decision of an economic character - grain deliveries in the first place. The fulfilment of production plans was considered as being the principal task, to be followed immediately by a drive against the koulaks, though it was added that those two tasks could easily and

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successfully be combined.

DECISION OF THE AGRARIAN PARTY ZSL. The Central Committee of the agrarian party ZSL concluded its meeting by adopting a decision approving of the collectivization of agriculture and making it the party's own political line. The SZL is "to adopt henceforward the ideology of the PZPR" and to work under the direction of the latter. It was emphasised, however, that the collectivization of agriculture should be done "without the application of violence", though it was decided to carry out the fight against the koulaks at the same time "with every means". For the future, the task of honor of the ZSL is to be to effect collectivization in the old and most resistant villages (where there are no smallholders and colonists). Finally, the party is to recruit new forces "grown up under the system of people's democracy". The Communist press acclaims the decision with great satisfaction.

#### POLITICAL TRIALS

THE TURNER CASE. During the continued hearing of Col. Turner, the former British Air Attache, the accused involved a score of foreign diplomats, accusing them of espionage against "peaceful Poland". He gave 29 British, 12 American, 3 French, 1 Canadian and 1 Norwegian name, but the papers mention only the following names: Winch, 1st Secretary of the British Embassy; Gilbert, British Vice-Consul at Lodz; Scott, Br. Vice-Consul at Katowice; Sneddon, employee of the Br. Embassy; Capt. Rock-Keene, Br. Naval Attache; Major Dobree-Bell and Major French, Br. Mil. Attaches; Colonels Dingley, Jessic, Rudzick and Eriksen, American Military and Air (Eriksen) Attaches; Col. Cutbill, Canadian Mil. Attache.

In addition Turner listed a score of Polish names and stated, among other things, that he had met Gen. Anders



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in London. According to Turner Gen. Anders admitted that he was deeply convinced in his heart that the present Polish system of government has the support of the overwhelming majority of the Polish people. Turned admitted, further, that Wikolajczyk, the leader of the Polish peasant party, did not by any means flee Poland, as asserted, through East Germany with constant danger for his life, but was smuggled out of Poland, with British assistance, on board of S/S Baltavia, or the same boat by which Turner intended to smuggle his fiancée out of Poland.

The prosecution produced scores of witnesses, all of them sentenced previously for espionage, mostly Poles, but even a number of foreigners. Of these only a selected number was heard, or perhaps the press published only selected statements. All witnesses were supposed to confirm the spying activities of Turner and other foreign diplomats, as well as the fact that these foreign agents used their personal acquaintances as tools.

In spite of all this Turner and his associates were at the end not accused of espionage, but only of attempted illegal crossing of the border. The prosecution stated its case in mild turns and demanded only "just punishment". Turner himself regretted his "conspiracy against the peace" and promised to show by his future activity that he "did not mean it as bad as it looked", as he had come to the conclusion that Soviet Russia and Poland wanted peace, whereas England wanted war. Nelmes, an officer of S/S Baltavia, expressed similarly his admiration for Communist Poland and his condemnation over the war mongers in the British government. The rest of the accused simply applied to the generosity of the court.

On December 18 Turner was sentenced to 18 months of prison, his fiancée Bobrowska to 12 months of prison, and Nelmes and Upperton of the S/S Baltavia to 7 months of prison each.

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Allowing for the time spent by the accused in custody, the court released Nemes and Upperton on the spot. Nemes solemnly promised to the court to make "peace propaganda" in England.

During the trial the prosecution produced what was called written evidence to confirm British espionage in Poland. The evidence consisted of a Foreign Office instruction signed by Bevin concerning economic intelligence work, and of a letter from a British consul. The instruction of Bevin was a usual stenciled circular letter and no more than that.

comment. Turner's statements indicate that he probably was promised to be released in no distant future, permission to stay in Poland and marriage with Bobrowska. It looked in the beginning as if Turner had jumped over to the Communists, but they exaggerated the thing out of any proportion, as usual. Turner's asserted talk with Gen. Anders is incredible and a number of his other statements were likewise sheer inventions. His reward is apparent: the accusation of espionage was withdrawn completely, though Turner pleaded guilty several times, and the sentence was more than mild. By what means this was achieved remains an open question, but the Communists undoubtedly got what they wanted: all contacts with foreign diplomats will fall under the heading of attempted espionage in the future, and all prominent foreigners were put in a spot as people who cannot be relied upon. 50X1-HUM

PRIEST SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS Father Franciszek Wojnowski, former dean of Sarnowo who lately had lived in Zabrze, Silesia, under the assumed name of Jan Kedzierski, was sentenced by the Bydgoszcz court martial to 10 years of prison for collusion with the underground resistance movement.

comment. According to other sources the Bishop of Opole was arrested at the same time for having 50X1-HUM

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assisted the aforesaid Wojnowski to carry out his clerical duties in Zabrze under an assumed name.

MACHINE SMUGGLING FROM POLAND. Felix Piszcz, form. export manager of "Hartwig", one of Poland's largest state export companies, is with 8 associates under trial before the Gdynia court martial for having smuggled valuable machinery out of Poland. The machines came from the expropriated textile works of Lodz.

## B. ECONOMIC LIFE

### INDUSTRY

IRON ORE. At the close of the war the iron ore mines of former and present Poland were in part under water or out of work for other reasons. In 1939 38 mines were operated in the same area, 44 were operated in 1944, but only 18 in 1945. In the record year of 1939 the output was 872,000 tons, which fell in 1945 to 105,000 tons. At the close of the Three-Year Plan the output was 424,000 tons and jumped to 684,000 in 1949. During the Three-Year Plan the flooded mines were in part put in order and 27 new mines were opened in addition. Further, refineries, assortment and other works were set up during the Three-Year Plan. As known, the production of iron ore is to reach during the Six-Year Plan (by 1955) a total of 3 million tons, estimated to cover one-third of Poland's need. Polish iron ore deposits are estimated at a total of 300 million tons, of which 95 per cent, however, is low-quality ore (iron contents amounting to 33%). The investment plan of 1950 for iron ore industry has been carried out.

HOUSE CONSTRUCTION UNDER THE SIX YEAR PLAN. Dwelling house damages in Polish cities (counting only damages exceeding 10%) hit a total of 295,400 buildings or 526.9 mil.

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lion cubic meters. Of these 147,000 buildings or 305 million cubic meters were in the conquered area. Most of all were damaged the Province of Wroclaw (Breslau), where 50,100 buildings got damages, secondly Warsaw, where 20,400 houses were damaged, third the Province of Sroezecin (36,000 buildings), fourth the Province of Poznan (30,000 buildings damaged). According to official statements the construction and repair of buildings was "unsatisfactory" during the Tree-Year Plan.

During the Six-Year Plan (1950-1955) 723,000 new dwelling units are to be constructed in Poland (one room and kitchen being a "dwelling unit"). Of this 75% are to be in new cities, like Nowa Ruda and Tychy, or new blocks in the existing cities, like Muranów in Warsaw. As a number of old dwelling houses have to be cleared away at the same time, the actual increase will be less than the plan, as is shown by the following tables:

<u>Province</u>	<u>Dwelling units</u>	<u>In per/centa</u>
Warsaw (city)	100,000	
Warsaw (province)	37,000	5.4
Lodz - c.	40,000	5.6
Lodz - pr.	24,000	3.5
Kielce Province	31,000	4.5
Lublin "	17,000	2.5
Bialystok "	19,000	2.8
Olsztyn "	10,000	1.4
Gdansk "	28,000	4.0
Bydgoszcz "	17,000	2.5
Koszalin "	5,000	0.7
Szczecin "	16,000	2.3
Zielona Góra	12,500	1.8
Poznań	24,000	3.4
Wroclaw	55,000	7.9
Opole	23,000	3.4
Katowice	130,000	18.5
Krakow	83,000	11.8
Rzeszow	23,000	3.3
	<u>694,000</u>	<u>100.0</u>

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According to the plan the staff of industrial workers is to be increased by 230,000 hands in the Province of Krakow. In this province the construction of dwelling houses is to be concentrated, in addition to Nowa Huta, to the cities of Chrzanow, Trzebinia, Jaworzno, Szczakowa, Oswiecim, Olkusz, Andrychów, Tarnów, Nowy Sacz, Bochnia and Nowy Targ.

In the Province of Wroclaw, where industrial employment is to be increased by 300,000 hands, the construction of dwellings is to be concentrated to the cities of Wroclaw, Walbrzych, its surroundings, Jelenia Gora, Dzierżonów and Boleslawiec.

In Lodz labor is to be increased by 250,000 workers. 50X1-HUM  
 comment. It should be added that the plans of house construction are, as a rule, never fulfilled. They are scheduled in the last place. Taking the construction plans, however, for granted and considering the increase of population during the five coming years, the number of dwelling units per head will decrease rather than increase. The plan amounts therefore actually to a deterioration of the housing situation during the Six-Year Plan, in spite of the fact that the situation is extremely bad already now.

SUBWAY TO BE BUILT IN WARSAW. According to a Government decision the construction of an underground communication system is to begin at Warsaw immediately (in January 1951). The first part of the work is to be completed by the year 1956, and it is to consist of three cross-lines: 1) North-South Line (from Klociny to Sluzewiec), 2) North-East to South-West Line (Zeran-Wilenski Station, Theater Square-Wola), 3) East-West Line (Narutowicz square - Trzech Krzyzy square). The first stage of work is to include the construction of tunnels, their provision with tubes, and the putting in order of building places. All equipment is to be produced within Poland.

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comment. No deliveries being expected from the Soviet Union, and as the work is scheduled to begin at once, the scheme looks earnest.

GAS PIPELINE FROM CARPATHIANS TO WARSAW. The pipeline running from the district of Krosno to Warsaw was put in operation on December 17.

NEW CHEMICAL PRODUCTS. According to the business paper "Economic Life" the chemical industries "made during 1950 great progress by mastering the production of penicillin at Tarchomin and by beginning to produce synthetic rubber in Oswiecim."

REARRANGEMENTS IN CHEMICAL INDUSTRY. Fertilizer and other works located in Moscice, Chorzow, Matwy, Borek Pallecki and Silesia were separated from the joint administration of these factories and transferred under an independent management.

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comment. This piece of information is worth of every consideration. The joint management is in charge of fertilizer production. Why then were the most important factories separated from the joint management? Are they to begin producing something else?

#### COMMUNICATIONS

NEW CONSTRUCTIONS AND INSTALLATIONS. In the Province of Gdansk the construction of a bridge over river Wisla was completed at Knybawa. The construction of a bridge over Nogat (part of Wisla) near Jazowo was also completed. Likewise the construction of a road running around Tczewo was completed in the same province. On January 1 electrical communications will start running between Gdansk and Nowy Port.

#### COMMERCE

POLISH TRADE DELEGATION TO MOSCOW. On December 10

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a Polish trade delegation headed by Oede, the Minister of Foreign Trade, left Warsaw on its way to Moscow.

### C. CULTURAL LIFE

PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE SOVIETIZATION OF POLISH SCIENCE. National conventions of all branches of Polish science are at present discussing their work from the party aspect. Lately Polish economists and art critics concluded their conventions, at which party representatives set forth the lines of future work. At the same time a decision was taken to set up a Polish Academy of Science, which is to supervise all research work and all scientific work in general, so as to avoid them from deviating from the correct line. After the conclusion of all separate conventions there is to be a general congress of Polish science, for which preparations have been in progress for the last year.

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BRIEF NEWS FROM THE SATELLITE STATES  
for December 15 - 31, 1950

EAST GERMANY

EAST GERMAN PORTS. Rostock-Warnemünde, Stralsund, Sassnitz, Greifswald and Wolgast are the principal ports of East Germany.

Rostock-Warnemünde. These two constitute one harbor on the mouth of the same river. Rostock's population is about 100,000, Warnemünde's about 10,000. After a number of repairs and extensions the combined capacity of the port reportedly increased by the end of 1950 by some 1.2 million ton, being therefore at the present time about 5 million tons. A new railroad station is under construction at Rostock-Bramow. The combined harbor is used for the imports of coal, iron ore, fish and lumber, and for the exports of grain, sugar, salt and bricks. In 1948 the turnover was 790,000 tons, which rose to 1,300,000 tons in 1949. There is in Rostock also a comparatively large shipping yard.

Wismar. Population 35,000. Imports coal, lumber, granite, iron ore and livestock, exports grain, sugar and salt. The official capacity is given at 300 tons per hour. The harbor is to be dugged out so as to permit the arrival of boats up to 8,000 BRT. At present the boats are between 4 and 5 thousand BRT on the average. In 1948 the turnover was 300,000 tons.

Stralsund. Population 44,000. Turnover in 1948 totaled 700,000 tons, but the capacity has reportedly been increased by 900,000 tons and is given at present as being 2.5 million tons. (How this is estimated remains a secret, but this capacity is mentioned in the press.) The port



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is to be digged out to a depth of 7 meters. The port imports principally oil, lumber, coal, exports grain and sugar.

Sassnitz. Scheduled to become the fishing port of East Germany. The port is to harbor 20 large fishing boats, which are under construction according to the Five-Year Plan.

Greifswald. Population about 30,000. To be digged out to the depth of 4 meters.

Wolgast. A minor port with a population of 12,000. Average depth 4 meters. Larger boat must therefore unload in part near Östtief or the island of Ruden.

According to the Five-Year Plan the merchant marine of East Germany is to be up in 800,000 BRT by the year of 1955. This would require the construction of another harbor. According to Walter Ulbricht's official statement, however, the present division of Germany in two parts is to come to an end by the said year and the Germans will be able to use Lübeck, Hamburg and Bremen. Pending this development the Germans are permitted to use Stettin.

ANTI-WARMONGERY LAW. The so-called "Peace Law" in East Germany entered into force as of December 16. According to the law any one making propaganda for the remilitarization of Germany or for war etc. is liable to be punished by prison for life.

SOLVAY SABOTAGE CASE. On December 20 the trial of 10 former directors of the "Solvay" Company and of a number of Sachsen-Anhalt government officials was concluded at Bernburg. Of the accused Bekelman, Pluenecke, Kaste and Bluethen got 15 years of hard labor for espionage and sabotage. The rest was sentenced for the same crimes to prison from 2 to 10 years.

comment. According to statements in the Swedish press the trial aimed actually at the confiscation of "Solvay's" property.

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CZECHOSLOVAKIA

NEW DEPARTMENTS. The following new departments are to be set up: a Ministry of Heavy Industry, a Ministry of Light Industry, a Ministry of Food Industry, and a Ministry of Building Industry.

"THE PEACE LAW". According to the Czechoslovak "Peace Law" of December 20 the "war mongers" are to receive sentences up to 20 years of prison.

RAILROAD DISASTER. According to "Rude Pravo", the chief party newspaper, a funeral of "the victims of the large railroad disaster" took place in Podivín on December 26. Government representatives attended and the funeral was arranged by the state, but the papers contain no other mention of the disaster.

FAILURE OF HEAVY MACHINE INDUSTRY. On December 18 Kliment, the Minister of Industry, stated at Brno that the production plan of the heavy machine industry had been a failure. Considered as a whole, the plan will be fulfilled to the extent of over 100 per cent, which does not mean, however, as if all branches of industry had fulfilled their plan. On the contrary, said Kliment, several branches are "considerably behind the schedule". Only a few important factories account for the nice but misleading figure of "over 100 per cent". Practical steps should be taken to prevent such things from happening in the future.

SHORTAGE OF X-MAS SUPPLIES. Several press articles disclose that the shops of Czechoslovakia experienced a general shortage of supplies during the X-mas time.

BULGARIA

COLLECTIVIZATION OF AGRICULTURE. On November 1 the collectivization of agriculture was completed on half of

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the total of all farms in Bulgaria, as compared with only 14% in January 1950. Of the total acreage 44% are now collective farms.

"THE PEACE LAW". The Bulgarian "Peace Law" of December 26 provides for life sentences for "war propaganda".

#### HUNGARY

COAL PRODUCTION. According to a decision of the Hungarian Government the production of coal is to be increased by 20% during 1951, as compared with 1950, owing to the unexpectedly good results reached in 1950.

#### ROUMANIA

FIVE-YEAR PLAN. The Diet adopted a Roumanian Five-Year Plan for 1951-1955, but no details have been published in the press.

"THE PEACE LAW". According to the Roumanian "Peace Law" war mongers are liable to be sentenced to prison from 5 up to 20 years.